

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/713,004

Examiner

Thuy V. Tran

Applicant(s)

LOTT, JORG

Art Unit

2821

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment submitted on 04/11/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2,4-10 and 12.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 November 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

THUY V. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

This is a response to the Applicant's amendment submitted on April 11th, 2005. In virtue of this amendment, claims 1, 3, and 11 are canceled; and thus, claims 2, 4-10, and 12 are now presented in the instant application.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 2, 4-10, and 12 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest:

- A method for operating at least one low-pressure discharge lamp wherein said second variable correlated with the running voltage of said at least one low-pressure discharge lamp is an RMS value of an AC voltage component of the running voltage of said at least one low-pressure discharge lamp, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 2 (claims 4-5, 7-10 are allowed since they are dependent on claim 2);
- A method for operating at least one low-pressure discharge lamp wherein the electric power into said inverter, the DC voltage drop across the electric connections of said at least one low-pressure discharge lamp and an RMS value of an AC voltage component of the running voltage of said at least one low-pressure discharge lamp are determined from measured values which are fed to a microcontroller, and a program-controlled evaluation is carried out by the microcontroller, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 6; and

Art Unit: 2821

- An operating device for at least one low-pressure discharge lamp having a third measuring apparatus for measuring a third voltage which is proportional to the RMS value of a running voltage of said at least one low-pressure discharge lamp, and an evaluation unit which is connected to the outputs of said measuring apparatuses and comprises a program-controlled microcontroller and which serves to evaluate said first voltage to said fourth voltage as well as of controlling said half-bridge inverter function of a result of the evaluation, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 12.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Inquiry

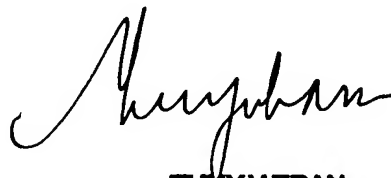
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy V. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-1828. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 AM -5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2821

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

04/18/2005



THUY V. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER